

SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, September 9, 2019 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Pat Bachetti, Dan Fraro, Sandra Grabierz, Beverly Guimond, Ann Levesque, Donna Lewkowicz, Ginny Lockwood, Gail Tishler, Kathy Worcester Honorary Member: Neil Connell Volunteer Angel: Ann Murphy
Members Absent: Dot Cutter, Dawn Whalen

The Somers Cultural Commission meeting for Monday, September 9, 2019 was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairperson Ann Levesque.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ann Levesque noted that the Cultural Commission Scholarship and coffee maker purchase, which were slated for discussion per the June 10 minutes, would be tabled until the November meeting for Bob Hall to address. A motion was made by Dan Fraro and seconded by Sandy Grabierz to approve the minutes for the June 10, 2019 Meeting. The minutes were accepted unanimously. There was no correspondence for this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Sandy Grabierz. Dan Fraro made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Bev Guimond. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the members unanimously. There were no bills presented for approval. Sandy reported that a check request was issued to the Town Treasurer's office for the \$2,500 general fund donation.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLICITY UPDATE

Publicity Coordinator Ginny Lockwood noted that local newspapers are not publishing submitted articles or are substantially cutting them. A discussion ensued regarding paying for advertising of the Photography Show, Art Show and Summer Concerts. Ann Murphy noted that the Reminder is looking for stories regarding Somers events. Ginny agreed to contact the Reminder and report back to the Commission at the October meeting.

SOMERS CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

The fall issue of the Somers Connections Magazine included coverage of the Art Show, Coffee House Concerts and Scarecrow Contest. Pictures of the Art Show and Scarecrow contest will be sent to the Operations Manager for inclusion in the next publication.

2019 SPONSOR CAMPAIGN

Dan Fraro reported that the 2019 fundraising campaign successfully raised \$8,050 (including \$2,400 of in kind donations). Ann Murphy presented the updated program listing which includes all of the sponsors and pictures of the summer concerts. It was agreed that another 150 flyers will be printed for distribution at the Art Show and at key locations around town.

2019 SUMMER CONCERTS

Ann Levesque reported on the excellent attendance at both the outdoor and indoor summer concerts. Ann noted that Chris Boucher will be attending the October meeting to discuss options to address the ongoing issues with the portable toilets. The Commission will review the indoor venue options for the 2020 season. A suggestion was made to inquire as to whether the Jazz Dog food truck can offer healthier food options.

2019 SCARECROW CONTEST

Donna Lewkowicz reported that the Scarecrow Committee has been visiting local businesses to distribute entry forms and flyers for the Scarecrow Contest. The contest has also been included on the SCC Facebook page and the Somers Town Hall website. The Committee is grateful to Ginny Lockwood and Ann Logan for assisting in the publicity. Donna reported that there are 2 registered entrants to date. Donna presented the budget for the contest. Bev Guimond made a motion to accept the budget which was seconded by Ginny Lockwood. Members unanimously approved the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

27th ANNUAL PIEDMONT ART SHOW

Neil Connell requested volunteers to assist with refreshments for the Art Show Reception on September 15th. A sitter's schedule was circulated to cover the show which is open Wednesdays through Sundays from September 18th-29th. Neil discussed the procedure for handling the sale of portfolio pieces which is a new addition to the Art Show. Neil requested the Commission consider purchasing two more short panels to help anchor the longer walls. Sandy agreed to research the cost of the panels and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

COFFEE HOUSE 2019-2020 REFRESHMENTS

Sandy Grabierz requested that the Committee consider serving only liquid refreshments prior to the start of the events. Members unanimously approved the change.

METHODIST CHURCH SIGN

Ann Levesque presented the old Methodist Church sign which Dot Cutter had cleaned up. Members were pleased with the work Dot had done on the sign. Dot and Neil are working on the history of the building to hang next to the sign. Neil requested a letter be sent to the Somers Historical Society requesting copies of pictures of the building that were included in a 1978 publication.

PURCHASE OF STATIONARY WITH PIEDMONT LOGO

Ann Levesque requested that the Commission consider purchasing stationary with the piedmont logo to be used as thank you notes. Pat Bachetti made a motion to purchase the stationary which was seconded by Bev Guimond. Members unanimously approved the stationary purchase.

CT RIVER VALLEY ARTISTS

Neil Connell requested that the Commission consider sponsoring an Art Show for the CT River Valley Artists in the late spring of 2020 when Piedmont Hall is unutilized. Neil noted that the Commission had previously sponsored the show. It was agreed that Neil would discuss the matter with the First Selectman Bud Knorr and report back to the Commission at the October meeting.

The next Somers Cultural Commission Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 14th at Piedmont Hall.

Bev Guimond made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Sandy Grabierz. Members unanimously approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Lewkowicz, Secretary *Pro Tem*

NOTE: Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.